Garrison

Boston, February 17. 1853.

Dear Mr. Estlin;

Your quite inimitable letter, of Jan. 26, was sent to me here from Leicester, and reached me safely, with its Note of £30. enclosed, evening before last. Had I then recollected that the Cunard Steamer Canada left this port the next morning, I would immediately have replied, at least so far as, to assure you of the safe arrival of the money. But it was too late to write, when I did ascertain was reminded of the fact, and now I shall try to send this by the American Steamer which leaves N. York on Saturday. - I cannot speak, as I would, of that generous and complete devotion to the Anti-Slavery work, which seems never to think it has done enough, and which, after freely tasking and almost exhausting strength of body & of mind, and freely devoting money also in many ways at home, does not rest till it has sent its kind, too, friendly word of cheering, and a most liberal donation to the servants and martyrs of this holy warfare here. - And you need not even our thanks; - they are indeed a small & poor return. But you will not deem it a small thing, that your steadfast zeal, courage, & hope do not only cheer us onward, but do even exalt in our minds, and render us more reverent toward the Cause which can so inspire and so consecrate your life, health, strength, & all the ability to do; - on the part your own, and that of others I need not name, - for their record is elsewhere, and we have the best proof that the cause is to their own glory.

I leave it therefore, and say that your most friendly enclosure produced in our money Onehundred & forty eight dollars, the rate of exchange being now in our favour. I do not know how you could have divided it better among our friends than you have. The sum for the "Liberator" I think it best to put into Mr Garrison's hands, with so large a liberty, that he will not feel obliged to expend it actually upon the "body" (so to speak) of the Liberator, but may employ it for the lightening of the burden (certainly not an unwelcome one) which he daily carries. The Liberator is now, within its very moderate bounds & on account of its very careful & prudent financial management, a self-supporting paper. It has had, for 2 a 3 successive years, a few hundred dollars surplus at the year's end. This being the case, it is not absolutely necessary to expend your gift upon its types, paper, press-work, &c., and it can go where it will do a moral & spiritual benefit to him who is its head & soul, & thus in a very important, and in fact in a vital point, will go to sustain, aid, & improve the paper itself. I have talked with Mr. Garrison, and expressed to him these views. He very deeply feels your kindness. He does not object to what I propose. He requests me to retain the money until the first of April, at which time the necessity of his removal from his present house to another will ~~involve him~~ oblige him to make some expenditures, for which he had scarcely known how to provide. — It is not improper that I should say here, that some of Mr. Garrison's personal friends, — the few who are able to do a thing of the kind — have within the last few years been collecting a fund, now amounting to several thousand dollars, for his use & benefit, in case any thing should befal

him, so as to deprive his family of his care & support, and to remain for his family's use, after his death. — I did ask myself if it would not be best to add your gift to that fund; but I, on the whole, give the preference to the way I have already indicated, for that, I think, will be appropriating it so as to make it (in your words) "most pleasant & useful to Mr. Garrison." — I design therefore to distribute the $148. as follows:

To Mr. Garrison	$50.00
" Capt. Drayton	25.00
" the Standard	25.00
" the Freeman	24.00
" the Bugle	24.00
	$148.00

The "Bugle" is an excellent paper — never so good as it is now, seems to be the general opinion — doing an excellent work in our Northwestern States. [illegible] as any name on the above list.

I had not time today to read to Mr Garrison the portion of your letter relating to his conduct of the Lib^r. — But I design to copy & send him such part as he may properly see, and I shall beg him to send you a few lines about it. Whether he ever does write you is exceeding doubtful. He is proverbially a poor correspondent. He dislikes the pen. The labour of chirography to him is great, I like one. He cannot scribble rapidly as most persons can, who have written so much as he. But he writes, even his editorial articles, with a careful attention to the handsome forming of every letter, the exact placing of stops & other marks, and the fair appearance of the whole when done. So slowly he writes (while he thinks & talks with great & ~~extraordinary~~ unusual quickness), that letter-writing, or any extra writing becomes to him quite a mountain of difficulty. — But I hope to prevail on him to say a few words to you

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Friday, Feb. 18th. It is now past 1 o'clk. P.M., and in a short time this must be in the post office, or it will lose tomorrow's Steamer. – I hoped to get an uninterrupted hour this morning to write this letter; but it has been impracticable – I shall have to defer much I wanted to say. – I thank you for the 3 copies of the "Special Report", though very sorry to have had you taxed so much for the postage. – We are all greatly pleased with the "Advocate". Mr. Garrison speaks of it in high terms. All, who read it, like it. – It is becoming already valuable for its statistics & information, presented so lucidly & with so much precision & condensation. Let there be a good Index at the End of the Volume – a thing our A. S. papers have been sadly deficient in. I have long been thinking of the Herculean tasking of Indexing the Liberator for 24 years! but it is yet in future. I keep a yearly book of references to

* + yours fully enough to keep up its numbers –

your criticisms on the Lib'r course. You are right when you say There must be amongst us minds who are pained & repelled by some of the articles in the Lib'r. There are. It loses subscribers, some of them perhaps from a high motive – but more from timidity, or sectarianism or fear of loss. You are certainly conducting the A. S. work in England in quite a different way from us; but then, how different your field. Everywhere we turn, go, look, Slavery has its branches, or its roots. It is not enough for us to present facts, argue the case to the perfect Conviction of reasonable people, & stir the feelings of those who have any. As Lucy Stone said to me yesterday – "Uncle Tom" has set the English people to work – our people cry over it, wipe their eyes, & remain just where they were. – There is a good deal of truth in it, – but it is not a little to get folks to cry over the wrongs of the slave. They can't sneer at the Anti-Slavery cause quite so easily afterwards. – The Americans take to themselves the credit character of being a more reading people than you. Amongst us some 20, or 25 copies of 'Uncle Tom' have been circulated; With you, I suppose, a Million. What a wonderful Success! And why? Because of the Vastness, the Awfulness, & the Excellence of The Cause. The groans, the tears, the agonies of three millions of living souls with fit vent and voice somehow and somewhere

It is quite a remarkable fact that, how "U. Tom's" means, such men as Archbishop Whately & Lord Denman should have been brought out, as Mrs. Stowe goes to Scotland in April. She is ~~frequently~~ often at our office, collecting facts, procuring documents, &c. &c. for her forthcoming work, "Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin", I hope you will see her. She is quite a pleasing & well-talking woman, so to speak. She is better looking than the likeness in some of her books - in animated conversation, she is very well-looking, though she speaks of herself as being 'never much to see'. She is small in stature.

I hope you will make systematic efforts to have subscribers procured for the "Advocate". So good & cheap a publication ought to go into a great number of paying hands, and I should think it would, if properly attended to.

We hope you won't be disappointed about the new Editor of the Reporter. But the old Committee surely can have had no change of heart. If they change their plan of action, is it not from policy? And if they can step forward, with their additional means of moving, and pre-occupy the field the 'Advocate' was entering, & destined to cultivate, may they not hope to scuttle that paper, & see it sink - and then go back, so far as they can, to their old ways again? I am sure you will watch them closely. - Mr. Garrison feels interested to see what the half-dozen coming Numbers of the B. & F. Reporter will say. Where did the Editor get his name? It is neither Saxon, nor Norman, nor French, nor German, that I can make out. I read it Chameroozon. Is that right.

We shall probably not get off our Annual box

until the early part of March. The Annual Report has been delayed more than usual. By that I hope to write you again. —

My best regards and respects to your daughter — how much you two have done! — Surely "two are better than one"

And with the same to yourself —

Faithfully Yours Samuel May Jr

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